

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 H-03 EB-11 COME-00

SCEM-02 TRSE-00 INT-08 SCI-06 SS-20 NSC-10 /116 R

DRAFTED BY:AF/C:COHEN/OSM

APPROVED BY:AF/C:COHEN

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R 282131Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, CG, US

SUBJ: MOBIL RESPONSE TO GOZ NATIONALIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT

1. MOBIL HAS SENT FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO PRESIDENT
MOBUTU DECEMBER 27 ON SUBJECT OF ANNOUNCED GOZ TAKEOVER
OF OIL DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES.

"WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MR. M. MAGGIAR, MANAGER OF
OUR AFFILIATE IN KINSHASA, OF THE RECENT COMMUNICATION
FROM THE COMMISSAIE D'ETAT A L'ENERGIE CONCERNING THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN ZAIRE.

-WE HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THIS COMMUNICATION AND
RESPECTFULLY DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT MOBIL,
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN COMPANIES, HAS ALWAYS
ABIDED BY THE INTERESTS OF YOUR COUNTRY IN CONDUCTING
ITS BUSINESS IN ZAIRE AND HAS CONTRIBUTED ITS EXPERTISE
AND MADE INVESTMENTS, SUCH AS THE RECENT CONSTRUCTION OF
OUR CHEMICAL PRODUCT INSTALLATION AT MATADI. WE HAVE ALSO
DEMONSTRATED OUR DETERMINED EFFORT TO TRAIN AND PROMOTE
ZAIRIANS TO MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. MOREOVER, WE WOULD POINT
OUT THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH HAVE ALWAYS PREVAILED
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BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MOBIL, AS WELL AS THE OTHER

AMERICAN COMPANIES.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST
YOU TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING OUR COMPANY
TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS AN INDEPENDENT PRIVATE COMPANY
IN CLOSE COOPERATION IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE PROSPERITY
OF YOUR GREAT COUNTRY.

"IT IS WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK AND IN A SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION EXPRESSED AT THE CLOSE OF THE LETTER FROM
THE COMMISSAIRE D'ETAT A L'ENERGIE, THAT WE ARE PREPARED
TO EXAMINE JOINTLY WITH YOUR COMMISSARIAT THE POSSI-
BILITY OF CONTINUING TO PURSUE OUR ACTIVITIES AS A
PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF YOUR
NEW PETROLEUM POLICY AND WE REMAIN ENTIRELY AT YOUR
DISPOSAL TO SEND TO KINSHASA A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE
OF OUR COMPANY. SIGNED C.. KLAERNER, PRESIDENT,
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, MOBIL OIL CO."

2. MOBIL'S OBJECTIVE IS TO CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS IN
ZAIRE AS PRIVATE ENTITY, AND HOPE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOZ IF LATTER FEELS RECEPTIVE.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE251675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:COHEN/OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973122/aaaaabew.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBIL RESPONSE TO GOZ NATIONALIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT
TAGS: BDIS, CG, US
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005